

Direct speech means to use talking in stories. The punctuation needed can be very complicated. This is a step-by-step guide to getting it right. "Speech marks" always need to go at the start and end of what is being said (including punctuation).

**Activity A:** Copy these sentences into your books, putting speech marks in the correct place:

**Example:** Are you coming to tuck? asked John.  
"Are you coming to tuck?" asked John.

1. Beckham is a great free-kick taker, said Joe.
2. No he isn't, argued Pete.
3. Joe replied, but he kept us in the World Cup, he's brilliant.
4. Well, he's not as good as Lampard, said Pete
5. You're talking rubbish! Joe shouted back.

Sometimes, what one person says in one go is broken up by narrative (story) ...

**Example:** Well, I had no idea you felt like that!

said Clare,

"Well," said Clare, "I had no idea you felt like that!"

**Activity B:** Now try adding speech marks in these sentences ... be careful!

1. Hello, said Andy, I haven't seen you about in ages.
2. No, replied Nicky, I've just got back from holiday.
3. Where did you go? Andy asked. Was it sunny?
4. I went skiing with the school, Nicky grinned. It was fantastic but really cold.
5. I've always wanted to go. Was it difficult staying on the skis?

You must ALWAYS start a new paragraph each time the speaker changes.

**Activity C:** Here is a conversation between two people, Sue and Chris, but it's all one block even though the speech marks have been put in for you. Re-write it putting it in new paragraphs (get the speech marks right too!):

"Have you been to see Harry Potter?" asked Sue. "No," said Chris, "I want to go tomorrow. Is it any good?" "It's OK, for little kids really. I preferred Lord of the Rings, my mum took me over Christmas." "Isn't it really long?" "It's as long as Harry Potter," said Sue. Chris said, "I really want to get Scary Movie out on video again." "That was rubbish!" "It was good! I laughed a lot." "It's boring, said Sue, "I fell asleep."